



UNITED STATES SENATOR · MICHIGAN  
**DEBBIE STABENOW**  
PRESS RELEASE



United States Senate · Washington D.C. 20510-2204 · (202) 224-4822  
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
June 6, 2002

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**U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow and the Alliance for  
Retired Americans Kick off Rx Express Bus Trips**

**Key Senate & House leaders join in this effort**

WASHINGTON—U.S. Senator Debbie Stabenow (D-MI), coordinator of the Senate Prescription Drug Task Force, was joined by the Alliance for Retired Americans and a number of her Senate and House colleagues today as she kicked off the largest-ever bus trip effort organized to give senior citizens access to affordable prescription drugs. *Rx Express* bus trips will take seniors from across the nation to Canada to buy prescription medications at prices far lower than those available in the United States.

“I am proud to join the Alliance for Retired Americans in kicking off these important bus trips, which will give many seniors the opportunity to purchase their medications at prices that are nearly fifty percent less than what they would pay in the United States,” said Stabenow. “However, we must act now to allow U.S.-licensed pharmacists and drug wholesalers to import FDA-approved medications from Canada so that, next time, no one will have to cross the border to get the prescriptions they need to stay healthy at a price they can afford.”

Organized in part by the Alliance for Retired Americans, the *Rx Express* buses will take hundreds of people to Canada in the next month to buy prescription drugs and highlight the urgent need for Congressional action on an affordable Medicare prescription drug benefit. Senator Stabenow will be in Detroit this Monday to kick off the trip leaving from Michigan.

“It is simply not fair that, although American taxpayers subsidize the development and the advertising of these drugs, we pay more for them than anyone else in the world. Americans need some immediate relief from these astronomical prices and prescription drug reimportation can provide just that. And in another ironic twist, just after the Senate completed action on a new trade bill, we are still facing the prospect of having free trade with Canada with virtually every product under the sun, except prescription drugs. However, the number of seniors across the nation who will be climbing aboard the *Rx Express* this month also highlight the need for Congress to modernize Medicare to cover prescription medications,” said Stabenow.

In April, Senators Stabenow, Dorgan and Jeffords introduced legislation, the bipartisan MEDS Act II, to lower the high cost of prescription drugs by allowing Americans to take advantage of international price competition by allowing U.S.-licensed pharmacists and drug wholesalers to import FDA-approved medications from Canada, resulting in lower prices at the prescription counter and lessening the need for seniors and families to travel across the border to obtain affordable medications. The legislation also allows individuals to import a 90-day supply of prescription drugs from Canada for their own personal use.